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Message Text

SECRET

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NODIS

FROM US LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS: SECRETARY'S BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE
REGARDING THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. THE SECRETARY MET WITH PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE AT BREAKFAST ON SEPTEMBER 2. THERE WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO WITH AMERASINGHE EXPLAINING HIS EFFORTS TO MODIFY THE KOREAN RESOLUTION.

2. ON LOS MATTERS, AMERASINGHE SAID THAT ON THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THE 6TH WEEK AND OVER THE WEEKEND HE WOULD PUT TOGETHER A REVISED TEXT UNDER HIS NAME AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THE CONFERENCE EARLY IN THE 7TH WEEK. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD USE THE CHAIRMAN AND SOME FRIENDS ON AN UNOFFICIAL BASIS TO HELP HIM. AMBASSADOR LEARSON SUGGESTED THAT HE COULD MAKE MR. OXMAN AVAILABLE ON SUCH A BASIS TO AID THE PRESIDENT. AMERASINGHE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OXMAN.

3. THE SECRETARY OUTLINED THE U.S. POSITION ON COMMITTEE I, NAMELY THAT WE MUST HAVE A GUARANTEED ACCESS SYSTEM WHICH REQUIRES OUR MINERS ONLY TO MEET STATED OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO OBTAIN A LICENSE. IN RETURN FOR THIS THE US WOULD SPONSOR FINANCING THE ENTERPRISE AND
SECRET

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ENSURE THAT IT HAD THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY TO MINE

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CONCURRENTLY OR VERY CLOSE THERETO WITH THE FIRST
COMMERCIAL MINING EFFORT.

4. THE SECRETARY ALSO OUTLINED THE REVIEW PROVISION
THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED, TIEING THE REVIEW PROCEDURE TO
THE FACT THAT MINING COULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL 1983, THAT IT
WOULD TAKE ANOTHER 7 TO 10 YEARS FOR MINERS TO KNOW
WHETHER THEIR PROJECT WAS COMPETITIVE TO LAND-BASED
MINING. THIS WOULD BRING US INTO THE 90'S BEFORE CONTRACTORS
WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL CAPITAL FROM FINANCIAL
INSITITUIONS TO HAVE A SECOND OR THIRD MINE. ALL THIS
POINTED UP THAT A MONOPOLY TYPE POSITION WAS MOST UNLIKELY.
LOOKING AT THESE FACTS IN THE LIGHT OF A REVIEW CLAUSE
IN THE TREATY THERE WAS GREAT SAFETY TO ALL THAT US COULD
NOT MONOPOLIZE THE AREA. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SAID THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT, THOUGH COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO ANY QUOTA
SYSTEM, WOULD STUDY THE PROBLEM.

5. THE SECRETARY ALSO COVERED COMMITTEES II AND
III STATING THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE NECESSARY COM-
PROMISES AND ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO
CONCLUDE THE WORK IN THIS SESSION.

6. AMBASSADOR LEARSON MADE IT CLEAR TO PRESIDENT
AMERASINGHE THAT ON THE QUESTION OF MARINE SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH THE PRESIDENT MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE
PRESENT TEXT DID NOT REPRESENT THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE
CONFERENCE, BUT RATHER AN ARBITRARY IMPOSITION BY THE
CHAIRMAN OF ONE POSITION. AMERASINGHE SAID HE
RECOGNIZED THE SITUATION AND WOULD TAKE THAT INTO CON-
SIDERATION IN HIS NEW TEXT.

7. THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE SECRETARY MAKING
IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT IF A PARALLEL ACCESS SYSTEM WAS
NOT IN THE NEW TEXT, UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE PART OF THE
U.S. WAS INEVITABLE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE 77 MUST
RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR RESOLVE. THE SECRETARY
FOLLOWED UP WITH A STATEMENT THAT HE CAN EASILY
FORESEE THAT THE U.S. COULD, THROUGH SPECIAL AGREEMENTS
WITH THE USSR, JAPAN, AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS,

COME TO AGREEMENT TO MINE THE SEAS ON A MULTILATERAL
BASIS WITHOUT THE DANGER OF CONFLICT.
BENNETT

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